United Nations

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

18 January-26 March, 10 May-25 June and 26 July-8 September 1999

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-fourth Session
Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the fifty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly its annual report on its 1999 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. 1999 Session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 18 January to 26 March, 10 May to 25 June and 26 July to 8 September 1999. During this period, the Conference held 29 formal plenary meetings, at which member States as well as non-member States invited to participate in the discussions outlined their views and recommendations on the various questions before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 13 informal meetings on its agenda, programme of work, organization and procedures, as well as on items of its agenda and other matters.

4. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the following member States assumed successively the Presidency of the Conference: United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Algeria, Argentina and Australia. 1/

B. Participants in the Work of the Conference

5. The representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe participated as Member States in the work of

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1/ See CD/PV.816, pp.25-26.

the Conference. As a result of the decision taken by the Conference at its 831st Plenary meeting on 5 August 1999 (see Section II.E below), the representatives of Ecuador, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Tunisia participated as Member States in the work of the Conference from that date.

C. Agenda and Programme of Work for the 1999 Session

6. At the 809th plenary meeting on 21 January 1999, the Conference adopted its agenda for the 1999 session in conformity with the rules of procedure. The agenda (CD/1562) reads as follows:

"Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and pending the conclusion of its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 1999 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.

3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. Transparency in armaments.

8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

7. After the adoption of the agenda, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of the agenda, I, as the President of the Conference, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda".

8. In regard to the Programme of Work, the Conference had before it the following official documents:

(a) CD/1566, dated 2 February 1999, entitled "Proposal by the President on the programme of work for the 1999 session of the CD";

(b) CD/1570, dated 4 February 1999, entitled "Proposal on the programme of work", submitted by the Group of 21;

(c) CD/1575, dated 10 March 1999, entitled "Proposal by the President on the programme of work for the 1999 session of the CD";

(d) CD/1586, dated 20 May 1999, entitled "Working paper on the programme of work of the Conference", submitted by the delegations of France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

9. During the annual session, successive Presidents of the Conference conducted intensive consultations with a view to reaching consensus on the programme of work. These were inconclusive. The Conference did not re-establish or establish any mechanism on any of its specific agenda items during the 1999 session.

10. Also, during plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations expressed their views on this issue. These are duly reflected in plenary records.

D. Attendance and Participation of States not Members of the Conference

11. In conformity with rule 32 of the rules of procedure, the States not members of the Conference listed under the following paragraph attended its plenary meetings.

12. The Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from 47 States not members of the Conference. In accordance with the rules

of procedure and its decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036), the Conference invited the following non-member States to participate in its work: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, San Marino, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Sudan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Uruguay, and Zambia. In accordance with the decision contained in document CD/1588, Ecuador, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Tunisia participated as Members of the Conference as from 5 August 1999.

E. Expansion of the Membership of the Conference

13. The importance attached to the question of the expansion of its membership was duly recognized by the Conference. The issue was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings.

14. Requests for membership had been received, since 1982, from the following 26 non-members, in chronological order: Ireland, Tunisia, Ecuador, Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Denmark, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay, Philippines, Azerbaijan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Armenia, Thailand, Georgia and Jordan.

15. The Conference had before it document CD/1567, dated 2 February 1999, entitled "Proposal by the President on the Expansion of the Membership of the Conference on Disarmament".

16. At its 831st Plenary meeting on 5 August 1999, the Conference adopted the following decision:

> "The Conference on Disarmament,
>
> Recognizing the importance attached to the question of expansion of its membership,

Confirming the necessity to review its membership at regular intervals, as contained in Rule 2 of its Rules of Procedure,

And without prejudging the consideration to be given to past, present and future applications for membership to the Conference,

Decides, as a further step within this approach, to admit Ecuador, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Tunisia as its members as of 5 August 1999." (CD/1588).

F. Review of the Agenda of the Conference

17. The Conference continued to attach importance to the review of its agenda. The issue was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings.

G. Improved and Effective Functioning of the Conference

18. The importance of the improved and effective functioning of the Conference was addressed by delegations in plenary meetings.

H. Communications from Non-Governmental Organizations

19. In accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure, a list of all communications from non-governmental organizations and persons was circulated to the Conference (document CD/NGC/33).

III. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE DURING ITS 1999 SESSION

20. The substantive work of the Conference during its 1999 session was based on its agenda. The list of documents issued by the Conference, as well as the texts of those documents, are included as appendix I to the report. An index of the verbatim records by country and subject, listing the statements made by delegations during 1999, and the verbatim records of the meetings of the Conference, are attached as appendix II to the report.

21. The Conference had before it a letter dated 19 January 1999 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations (CD/1561) transmitting all the resolutions dealing with or related to disarmament and international security

adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in 1998, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament:

53/75 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" (operative paras. 2, 4 and 5)

53/76 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (operative paras. 5, 6 and 8)

53/77 C "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes" (operative paras. 1, 4 and 5)

53/77 I "The Conference on Disarmament decision to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" (operative paras. 1, 2 and 3)

53/77 O "Regional disarmament" (operative para. 1)

53/77 P "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" (operative para. 2)

53/77 U "Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons" (operative para. 4(b))

53/77 V "Transparency in armaments"(operative para. 6)

53/77 X "Nuclear disarmament" (operative paras. 8, 9, 10 and 11)

53/77 Y "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda" (operative paras. 12 and 13)

53/78 D "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

53/79 A "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (operative para. 2)

53/79 B "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9)

22. At its 810th plenary meeting on 26 January 1999 the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Conference, during which he reiterated the importance he attaches to the work of the Conference as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community (CD/PV.810).

23. In addition to documents separately listed under specific items, the Conference had before it document CD/8/Rev.8*, dated 17 August 1999, entitled "Rules of Procedure of the Conference on Disarmament".

A. Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament

24. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on this agenda item, including on nuclear disarmament and on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

25. In addition to the documents listed in paragraph 8 above, the following documents dealing with this item were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1563, dated 26 January 1999, entitled "Draft mandate for an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament" submitted by the delegation of Egypt;

(b) CD/1564, dated 28 January 1999, entitled "Interpretation of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference on Disarmament", submitted by the delegation of South Africa;

(c) CD/1565, dated 2 February 1999, entitled "Proposal on nuclear disarmament", submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Norway;

(d) CD/1568, dated 4 February 1999, entitled "Proposal concerning CD action on nuclear disarmament", submitted by the delegation of Canada;

(e) CD/1571, dated 18 February 1999, entitled "Draft decision and mandate on the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament", submitted by the Group of 21;

(f) CD/1574, dated 9 March 1999, entitled "Nuclear disarmament: substantive discussion in the Conference on Disarmament", working paper submitted by the delegation of Canada;

(g) CD/1578, dated 18 March 1999, entitled "Elements of an Approach to Dealing with Stocks of Fissile Materials for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices", working paper submitted by the delegation of Canada;

(h) CD/1590, dated 16 August 1999, entitled "Letter dated 11 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the Report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament";

(i) CD/1593, dated 6 September 1999, entitled "Letter dated 6 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of the Declaration of the European Union on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty Negotiations."

B. Prevention of Nuclear War, including all Related Matters

26. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, and these are recorded in plenary records, previous annual reports of the Conference (in particular paragraphs 62-71 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173)), related official documents and working papers.

C. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

27. In addition to the documents listed in paragraph 8 above, the following documents dealing with this item were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1569, dated 4 February 1999, entitled "Proposal concerning CD action on outer space", submitted by the delegation of Canada;

(b) CD/1576, dated 18 March 1999, entitled "Draft decision on the re-establishment of an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and its mandate", submitted by the delegation of China.

28. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

D. Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons

29. Although no new documents were submitted to the Conference specifically under the agenda item during the 1999 session, the documents listed in paragraph 8 above dealt, inter alia, with this item.

30. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

E. New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons; Radiological Weapons

31. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, and these are recorded in plenary records, previous annual reports of the Conference (in particular paragraphs 79-82 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173)), related official documents and working papers.

F. Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament

32. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, and these are recorded in plenary records, previous annual reports of the Conference (in particular paragraphs 83-89 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173)), related official documents and working papers.

33. During plenary meetings of the Conference, a number of delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the issue of anti-personnel landmines, the detailed descriptions of which are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

34. In addition to the documents listed in paragraph 8 above, the following documents dealing with the issue of anti-personnel landmines were submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1559, dated 21 October 1998, entitled "Letter dated 16 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey issued on 15 October 1998, concerning the extension of the comprehensive moratorium on all anti-personnel landmine exports and transfers";

(b) CD/1572, dated 4 March 1999, entitled "Working paper concerning CD action on an APL transfer ban", submitted by the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela;

(c) CD/1582, dated 30 March 1999, entitled "Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria and Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of the Joint Statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on the agreement signed in Sofia on 22 March 1999 on non-use of anti-personnel landmines and their removal from or destruction in the areas of their common border";

(d) CD/1585, dated 4 May 1999, entitled "Note Verbale dated 3 May 1999 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a decree issued on 22 March 1999 by the Government of Ukraine on the extension of the moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines";

(e) CD/1587, dated 25 June 1999, entitled " Letter dated 22 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Norway addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the Final Report of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on Their Destruction, held in Maputo, 3-7 May 1999".

G. Transparency in Armaments

35. In addition to the documerts listed in paragraph 8 above, the following document dealing with this item was submitted to the Conference:

(a) CD/1591*, dated 26 August 1999, entitled " Letter dated 29 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil and the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, which was approved at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Guatemala on 7 June 1999".

36. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item. These are duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

H. Consideration of Other Areas Dealing with the Cessation of the Arms Race and Disarmament and Other Relevant Measures

37. During its 1999 session, the Conference also had before it the following documents:

(a) CD/1558, dated 15 September 1998, entitled "Letter dated 14 September 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General of the

Conference on Disarmament transmitting the texts of four Joint Statements issued by Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton during their recent summit meeting in Moscow";

(b) CD/1560, dated 6 January 1999, entitled "Letter dated 6 January 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement made by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe";

(c) CD/1573, dated 4 March 1999, entitled "Media statement on the decision by the National Conventional Arms Control Committee on the destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons", submitted by the delegation of South Africa;

(d) CD/1577, dated 18 March 1999, entitled "Letter dated 17 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 12 March 1999 in connection with the official entry of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO";

(e) CD/1579, dated 25 March 1999, entitled "Joint Action of 17 December 1998 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on the European Union's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons", submitted by the delegation of Germany (on behalf of the European Union);

(f) CD/1580, dated 26 March 1999, entitled "Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of an official statement made by the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 18 March 1999 in connection with the adoption by the Senate of the United States of America of a bill on deployment of a national missile defence system";

(g) CD/1581, dated 26 March 1999, entitled "Note Verbale dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the Secretariat of the Conference

on Disarmament transmitting a communiqué issued by the Rio Group on 25 March 1999 on the start of air strikes on Serb military targets by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization";

(h) CD/1583, dated 1 April 1999, entitled "Letter dated 31 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement made by Mr. B.N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, on 24 March 1999 in connection with the military action by NATO in Yugoslavia";

(i) CD/1584, dated 28 April 1999, entitled "Letter dated 28 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and the Acting Head of Delegation of China to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting a joint press communiqué on issues related to the ABM Treaty";

(j) CD/1589, dated 10 August 1999, entitled "Letter dated 10 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of remarks made by President Clinton on 23 July, when he signed the 'National Missile Defense Act of 1999'";

(k) CD/1592, dated 26 August 1999, entitled "Letter dated 19 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting extracts relating to disarmament from the Final Declaration of the 35th Summit Meeting of the Organization of African Unity, held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999, as well as related decisions adopted at the Summit";

(l) CD/1594, dated 7 September 1999, entitled "Letter dated 7 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement made by Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad on 7 September 1999 on 'Regional and Global Implications of India's Nuclear Doctrine'".

I. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report of the Conference and any other Report as Appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations

38. To promote substantive progress during its 2000 session, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct appropriate consultations during the intersessional period and make recommendations, if possible, that could help to commence early work on various agenda items. These consultations shall, inter alia, take into account views presented and discussions held in the 1999 session, and in this connection, the President made the following statement:

"The Conference deliberated on the elements of a possible programme of work but was unable to reach a consensus.

Intensive consultations by successive Presidents, and the proposals put forward by different delegations, groups of delegations and previous Presidential proposals for a programme of work indicated that there were some common elements. However, it was evident that further consultations were needed on two subjects, namely, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and nuclear disarmament, in order to reach consensus.

After further consultations with delegations, informal proposals on these outstanding issues in the programme of work were drawn up and offered as a basis for possible agreement by the Ambassador of Algeria as the then President of the Conference. These were reflected in his statement to the Conference on 17 June 1999 (CD/PV.828). Some views were expressed on these proposals.

After my own intensive round of consultations as CD President I conclude that there is a strong collective interest in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during the next CD session. I therefore propose to jointly conduct with the incoming President consultations during the intersessional months in order to try to achieve this goal. I intend that my consultations should build upon the work done by my predecessors. My successor and I undertake to report to the Conference on the outcome of these consultations."

39. The Conference decided that the dates for its 2000 session would be:

First part: 17 January-24 March 2000

Second part: 22 May-7 July 2000

Third part: 7 August-22 September 2000

40. The annual report to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 7 September 1999, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Leslie Luck
Australia
President of the Conference

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